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TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN YUGOSLAVIA

The Yugoslav people, under leadership of Marshall Tito, have made great strides in reconstruction of their economy. Extraction of iron ore, smelting of pig iron and steel, output of cotton cloth and other products have been almost completely restored.

Before World War II, the principal textile products of Yugoslavia were cotton, wool, silk and linen. Cotton goods constituted one half the output of the textile industry, woollen goods one quarter, silk goods and hemp products one eighth, with the proportion of linen and jute goods comparatively low.

In 1940, 150 textile enterprises employed 20 percent of all workers in Yugoslavian industries.

Of the total capital invested in all branches of industry, 12 percent was apportioned to the textile industry. Thus, the textile industry occupies third place among the leading branches of Yugoslavian industry.

Before World War II there were approximately 250,000 spindles, 14,000 mechanical looms and 50,000 hand-operated looms in the cotton industry. Their spinning satisfied only 60 percent of the demand of fabric factories.

The annual output of cotton cloth did not completely satisfy the demands of the population and a considerable quantity of textile goods was imported from other countries.

There were about 70,000 spindles and 16,000 looms operating in 48 woollen factories before World War II. In 1940, the woollen industry reprocessed a large part of the internal production of wool, approximately 16,000 tons. In addition, 4,230 tons of wool and 1,650 tons of woollen yarn were imported.

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Production of goods made of hemp, flax, and jute was low. Before World War II, there were about 60 small factories processing hemp, one for spinning and two for weaving.

Flax, hemp and jute fibers were imported before the war. In 1939, 5,500 tons of these fibers were imported. In 1940, about 40,000 tons of raw hemp were harvested. Half of the yield was sold to Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and other countries.

In 1910, 31,500 workers were employed in the silk industry in Serbia. During World War I a large part of the mulberry trees was destroyed.

Only 636 tons of silk-worm cocoons were gathered in 1940, as compared with 3,000 tons in 1914.

Yugoslavia, in the years immediately preceding World War II, began to import a large quantity of natural silk. Thus, in 1921, 138 tons of natural silk and fiber were imported and imports rose to 3,244 tons in 1936. Before World War II, production of synthetic silk goods was very poorly developed. In 1936, Yugoslavia imported 3,165 tons of fiber and synthetic silk products.

The leading textile enterprises were located in three cities: Zagreb, Belgrade and Noyzats.

Before World War II the principal enterprises were the Joint Stock Company of the National Cotton-Spinning Factories in Duga Reza and the Joint Stock Company of Yugoslavian Textile Enterprises of Mautner in Zagreb. These companies owned 80,000 spindles or 40 percent of all the cotton spindles in Yugoslavia.

These two joint stock companies deluged the market with their goods and retarded the development of a significant number of smaller enterprises.

In April 1941, the Hitler hordes invaded Yugoslavia. The Fascist usurpers exploited the textile enterprises and shipped the entire output to Germany.

Under the devastating blows of the Soviet Army and Marshall Tito's Army, the Germans were forced out of Yugoslavia.

The retreating Germans destroyed factories and mills, carted off the most important equipment, stocks of raw materials and finished goods, and led the Yugoslavian population off into slavery.

According to American data, the entire Yugoslavian textile industry lost more than 30 percent of its prewar strength. The number of spindles diminished by 22 percent.

After the liberation of the country, the Yugoslavian people enthusiastically set to reconstructing the enterprises of the textile industry which had been destroyed by the Germans.

The National Skupshchina of the Federated National Republic of Yugoslavia passed a law concerning the nationalization of individual economic enterprises having general governmental or republican importance.

In conformity with the Constitution, a law was passed instituting the Yugoslavian Five-Year General Governmental Economic Plan. A. Khebrang, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, stated that "the five-year plan of development of Yugoslav national economy must liquidate the economic and technological backwardness of the country; it must raise and strengthen

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her economic and defensive might, it must intensify development of the socialistic national economy and the new production relations connected with it; it must improve the general welfare of the workers in the socialist, cooperative and private segments of economy."

The five-year plan provides for growth of production of the textile industry by more than twice its present output. Production of linen and weaving of synthetic fibres will increase considerably.

According to the plan, the sowing area for cotton will increase by 415 percent, which will, to a significant degree, satisfy demands of the domestic cotton industry. Productivity of labor in the textile industry in 1951 will be 55 percent higher than in 1946.

Per capita weaving production was 8.7 meters in 1939. Per capita output will reach 19.4 meters by 1951. This constitutes an increase of 223 percent over the 1939 level.

On 22 August 1947, the Planning Commission published information concerning fulfillment of the government plan of the first 6 months of 1947.

The results convincingly demonstrated the reality of the Yugoslavian five-year plan. The textile and silk industries plan had been fulfilled 103 percent for the first 6 months of 1947.

Yugoslavia is establishing close business relations with European countries, where a genuine democratic structure has been set up.

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